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The EXAMINER.

From Monday *April* 20, to Friday *April* 24, 1713.

Gravioribus pœnis affici, qui Religionem minuerint, quàm qui Fana ſpoliarent.
C. *Nepos* in Vitâ *Pelop.*

THE *Late* and *Preſent Miniſtry* differ'd very much from one another in their Care and Concern for the *Proteſtant Religion*. I lay it down as a *Fundamental Maxim*, That *Great-Britain* can ſecure and propagate the *True Reformed Church* by no wiſer and ſafer Meaſures, than by preſerving the Rights and keeping up the External Honours of the *Church* of *England* at home; and by ſupporting, with its Friendſhip and good Offices, the *Reform'd Churches* abroad, according to their *firſt Model*; till a favourable Opportunity can be had for removing thoſe Corruptions under which their *Beſt Profeſſors* aſſure us, They have long Laboured; and for reſtoring them to the Perfection of *Primitive Chriſtianity*, and Forming them into one *Grand Alliance* of *Religion*, or *Proteſtant Union*; a Work ſtill wanting to render us compleatly Happy, and which ſeems Reſerv'd for Thoſe who now Preſide in our National Councils, as the only Glorious Inſtruments, under God, able to accompliſh it.

The *Whigs*, as if the Name of *Proteſtant* were of no further Uſe to them than as it ſerv'd for a *Party-Word*, neglected and diſcountenanc'd the *Church* of *England*, which, both by Reaſon and Experience, appear'd to be the *Strongeſt*, and at one Time, the *Only Barrier* againſt *Popery*. When they undertook to Treat for Her with thoſe *Sects* and *Schiſms*, which, whilſt ſhe ſlept, had ſowed Tares in great plenty, and by taking advantage of ſome *Political Incidents*, and waving the mutual Enmity and Oppoſition that was between their own particular Schemes, had now muſter'd together a conſiderable Force, and were become Formidable, or at leaſt Repreſented as ſuch, by thoſe, who made uſe of their Numbers and Intereſts in every Political Undertaking, they did not uſe her as a *Superior* to the *Tolerated Sects* that were under her, nor Regard her ſo much as their *Equal*; but inſtead of bringing them into Her Boſom, as they had all along promis'd when a pretended *Moderation* was the Vertue in faſhion, they try'd to melt down all Her Doctrines and Diſcipline into their Plan; and ſhe muſt part with every thing, whilſt they were Supported and Encouraged in all their Extravagances. No Check, no Reſtraint was thought adviſeable, for fear of Diſguſting *Tender Conſciences*. The *Socinians* and *Deiſts* were of more Value, than either a *Saviour* or a *Providence*; and even the *Free-Thinkers* became the Objects, firſt of their Charity, and then of their Favour; and the Church was taught to be Civil towards thoſe who believed no God. Thus the *Proteſtant Religion* was to be ſecur'd by a *General Comprehenſion* of all Parties, who embrac'd the grand *Negative Article*, and could ſay they were *No Papiſts*, without any further Enquiry, whether they were of any Religion at all. Thus Right and Wrong, Light and Darkneſs, were to live together like good Neighbours; and all the old Differences between Good and Evil were fairly and amicably adjuſted. With what colour of Common Senſe, could this Scheme be call'd *Securing the Proteſtant Intereſt*, when *Nine* Parts in *Ten* of ſuch a *Motley Church* ſtood condemn'd by the unanimous Voice of the *Three Firſt Centuries*, and by that *Apoſtolical Primitive Chriſtianity*, in conformity with which every *Reformation* ought to be *Regulated*, and whence every true *Proteſtant Church* derives her *Orders*, *Creeds*, and *Sacraments*, and by that Only Rule, as the beſt Expoſitor of *Holy Scripture*, juſtifies her Separation from the *Church* of *Rome*? Had this *Babel* been erected, it muſt have been Peopled with a *Medley* of all Nations and Languages; and inſtead of a *Proteſtant Church*, we had been made a *Colony* of *Hereticks*, an *Aſylum* and Refuge, a Sink and Canal for the *Outcaſts* of every Church, where Eccleſiaſtical Diſcipline was in any Degree kept up and executed. Such a Religious *Chaos* and Fardle of Diſcord, if it can deſerve the Name of a *Church*, would have prov'd not very Stable and Durable. Could the *God* of *Unity* be ſuppos'd to take care of it, yet even Miracles, in that State, muſt be thought unable to ſave it, whilſt it was Compounded of all thoſe contrary Qualities, which are the Symptoms of a Diſſolution, the Seeds and Elements of Mortality. Theſe Diviſions were a rich Harveſt for the *Jeſuits* to work in: They formerly had ſuch another Opportunity, and to our Coſt, we found they improv'd it all they could in favour of the *Romiſh* Superſtitions. Had this *Grand Dance* went on, they would have made an eaſie Prey of a Diſtracted Kingdom; and when all our Regular Forces were broken, diſpers'd, and engag'd againſt each other, what remain'd for them but to come over with the firſt fair Wind and take Poſſeſſion, leſt *Judaiſm* or *Mahometiſm* ſhould perhaps get the ſtart, and ſtep to our Relief before them.

Our *Bleſſed Managers* enlarged their Views of Glorious Miſchief, and purſued the *Proteſtant Religion* into Foreign Countries, with the ſame tender Care with which they had treated her at home: A Care, as tender as is that of a Nurſe, who hugs the Child ſo very cloſe, till at laſt ſhe *Overlays* it. The Time had been, when the *Reformed*, of other Nations look'd on the *Church* of *England*, as their Head and Leader in the *Proteſtant Cauſe*: They own'd her Perfections and primitive Purity; and where they were obliged to differ from Her, they bewailed their Misfortune, becauſe they could not come up to her Standard, and charged thoſe Defects, either upon the Awe of a Temporal Power, or the Wayward Diſpoſition of their People. But when our new *Lay-Elders* had uſurp'd the Chair, they ſoon undeceiv'd their Foreign Correſpondents, and gave them a quite different Account of our Church: They let them know, that the Defects they complain'd of were real Beauties, and that our Church, inſtead of being as Pure as they had repreſented her, ſhould apply to them for a further *Reformation*. Accordingly whatever Tracts had been Publiſh'd beyond Sea againſt her Doctrines and Worſhip, were *Reprinted* here, and uſher'd into Vogue with pompous Accounts of the Learning and Piety of the Authors, which every ordinary *Reader*, who was not prejudiced before-hand, could readily diſprove by peruſing the doughty Performance. The Oppugners of *Eccleſiaſtical Diſcipline*, where-ever diſpers'd in remote Parts, and the *Renegados* of the ſeveral *National Churches* in *Europe*, were Sheltered and Supported by their Brethren of *Great Britain*: whilſt the excellent Apologies for our Religion, written by thoſe of the Clergy, who are the Ornaments of it, were thrown by, to make way for the ſilly Projects of *Foreign Profeſſors*, who had their Pupils here among us, ready to ſwallow whatever inſipid Diet they ſet before them. The *Reformed* of the *North*, where *Epiſcopacy* was maintain'd in any tolerable degree of Luſtre, were left out of the *Proteſtant Liſt*, and not only ſlighted and diſregarded, but Traduc'd and Vilify'd

Vilify'd in fooliſh *Libels* and *Pamphlets*, as *Popiſhly* affected, and encouragers of *Spiritual Tyranny*. All the Cry ran for the *Dutch* or *Genevan* Model; tho' in their preſent State, *Calvin* himſelf would have diſown'd the *one*, and *Beza* been aſhamed of the *other*. But as they advanced every Day, and gain'd ground of Religion, even the *Dutch* and *Genevan* Churches were at laſt not Corrupt enough for their purpoſe: The moment the *Divines* of *Geneva* appear'd in behalf of the *Engliſh Hierarchy*, they incurr'd their mortal Diſpleaſure; and *Limborch*, *Bayle*, and *Le Clerc*, were much more in their Favour, than all the whole Body of Profeſſors within the *Seven Provinces*, who did not yet reliſh the noble Undertaking of aboliſhing *Chriſtianity*. *Luther*'s Scheme, for known Reaſons, was as much their Averſion as *Popery*, and therefore they peſter'd *Germany*, eſpecially the Court of *Hanover*, with their *Free-Thinking Miſſionaries*, whoſe Treatment was ſuch as became the Piety of that *Illuſtrious Houſe*; and this Diſappointment, next their ſecret Affection and Zeal for the *Houſe* of *Cl——!*, contributed not a little to that rude Indifferency, which they expreſs'd towards that *Princely Family* in the Decline of their Party, and which, with great Juſtice, was a Leading Symptom of their Ruin. If any *Atheiſt*, *Infidel*, or *Scoffer* at Religion, had deſervedly ſuffered for his Impieties any where abroad, his *Hiſtory* and *Works* were glean'd up with great Care, and printed here, under the *higheſt Patronages*. Even *Bruno*'s Book, however Dull and Senſeleſs, is now got looſe from the Noble *Patriot*'s Study, who was at ſuch Expence to purchaſe it, publiſh'd without a Title, and encouraged by large *Subſcriptions* from the Party. Nay, they went ſo far as to father *ſpurious Hereſies* upon *Foreign Names*, rather than loſe any Opportunity of making a Merit by corrupting Religion. Even *Popery* was the worſe for them; and we find the *Jeſuits* at *Paris*, and their younger Brothers here, agreeing in the ſame Principles, which *Allan*, *Saunders* and *Parſons* delivered down to their Succeſſors, *Harrington*, *Milton* and *Sydney*; and of which their modern Diſciples, in conjunction, gave us ſuch a famous *practical Inſtance*, when *Odiſchalchi* was in the Chair. For the Honour of our *Engliſh* Clergy, *Heterodoxy* ran but very low at home, notwithſtanding the Support and Encouragement it met with, tho' no Candidate was more favourably receiv'd, or more luſtily promis'd, than the Wretch that could diſtinguiſh away his *Oaths* and *Subſcriptions*, or who had ſome modiſh Scruples relating to the *Doctrines* and *Diſcipline* of the Church, or ſome Particularities and *Noſtrums* in Divinity. The general and more vulgar Recommendation, was to rail at the reſt of the Order, or at leaſt to give in to a miſtaken Moderation, a Spiritual Indolence and Lukewarmneſs, which could oblige the Owners, when in poſſeſſion, to ſit tamely down, and leave the Rights of the Church to be inſulted and trod under Foot, by their enterprizing *Patrons*. But amidſt this glorious Proſpect of a flouriſhing *Iron* Age, and the coming of the *Kingdom* of *Antichriſt*, when, to their Mortification, domeſtick Hereſie and Infidelity did not abound, and anſwer their Expectations, they were not diſheartned; but look'd out for all the great *Genii* beyond Sea, who had diſtinguiſh'd themſelves by oppoſing *Church-Diſcipline* and *Creed-making*, and reach'd out their Arms to all thoſe, who had been ſpew'd out of every Church that call'd it ſelf *Proteſtant*. Their *General Naturalization* had open'd a wide Door for theſe *unconverted Gentiles*; and in a little time, the Deluge muſt have over-run us. Some Hints of this Project may be ſeen in *Lock*'s *Letters*; and, as if *Great Britain* had wanted Men of Learning ſufficient for a *Library-keeper*, that of St. *James*'s immediately belonging to *Her Majeſty*, was to have been put into the Hands of Monſieur *Le Clerc*, who, next to *Bayle*, was at that time the moſt approved *Sceptick* and *Infidel* in all *Europe*.

No wonder ſuch a *Miniſtry* ſhould not keep their Ground, when the great Founder of our Church had promis'd, *That the Gates of Hell ſhould not prevail againſt it*. Even **Diſmal**, ſince his Apoſtaſie, owns that *Their Fall was the juſt Judgment of God*. Happy was it for the Church, that after ſo long a Captivity, ſhe ſhould be reſcu'd by thoſe Men, who had kept her Company in all her Dangers, who beſt knew her Wants, were Witneſſes to the Wrongs ſhe receiv'd, and well underſtood where to apply the Remedy. Their Conduct, with regard to this Branch of the Conſtitution, has been One continu'd Act of Labour and Kindneſs in behalf of the *Church* of *England*, whom they conſider as the Bulwark of the *Reformation*, and an Irreconcileable Foe to *Rome*. They have purg'd her *Altars* of Hypocrites, have enlarg'd her *Revenues*, and are laying *new Foundations* for her Glory and Intereſt, in that *Metropolis*, where ſhe already ſhines with ſo bright a Luſtre: They have fix'd the due *Bounds* to *Schiſm*, and remov'd that *Cloud* which hung between the *Court* and the *Church*.

If we look abroad, their Care of the *Proteſtant Intereſt* ſtands atteſted by many Recent and Glaring Inſtances. The *Reform'd* in the *North* are perfectly reconcil'd to us; thoſe of *Germany* are made Eaſy, by removing a *Wretched Blunder*, that brought a laſting Stain upon the *Treaty* of *Ryſwick*; and thoſe of *France*, who had been Condemn'd or Impriſon'd for the *True Proteſtant Faith*, are, by *Her Majeſty*'s Great Goodneſs, Piety and auſpicious Influence, releas'd from the Miſeries they Labour'd under, and taken out of the Crowd of *Common Rogues* and *Galley-Slaves*, with whom the *Whigs*, in their Legendary-accounts, had moſt unmercifully Blended them. After curing *Two* ſuch Deſperate Evils, *One* of which the *Whigs* occaſion'd by their Miſmanagement, and wholly overlook'd the *Other*, what will become of their horrid Inſults, and unmannerly Clamours againſt *Her Majeſty* and the *Preſent Adminiſtration*? By what Submiſſions they will atone for this flagrant Iniquity, or how they will be able to make a ſufficient Recompence to thoſe they have Injur'd, muſt be left to Themſelves, who are Maſters of all the *Uſeful Talents* and *Refinements*, neceſſary to bear Men out, upon theſe nice and difficult Occaſions.

It is with a great deal of Pleaſure and Aſſurance of Victory, that I lay at them in a Diſcourſe of *Religion*, where every Blow fells them to the Ground: In truth, whoever turns *Stanch Whig*, will ſoon be brought to uſe Religion only as a *Party-Note*, not unlike a Huntſman's *Halloo*, which has no other meaning but *Noiſe*, and is made to call the Pack together. This Remark would appear to be of large Extent, if we were to carry it into *Private Hiſtory*, and try it upon all the Ringleaders of *the Faction*; who uſually begin their Converſion from the Church, by ſome ſprightly attack upon Religion in general, or by ſpreading the Contagion of their Apoſtacy. Thus, to inſtance in One of their *Late Converts*, no ſooner was **Diſmal** among the *Whigs*, and confirm'd paſt Retrieving, but Lady *Cha——te* is taken *Knotting* in St. *James*'s *Chapel*, during Divine Service, in the immediate Preſence both of *God* and *Her Majeſty*, who were affronted together, that the *Family* might appear to be entirely come over. I ſpare the *Beauty* for the ſake of her *Birth*; but certainly there was no occaſion for ſo publick a Proof, that her Fingers are more dexterous in *Tying* a *Knot*, than her *Father*'s Brains in *perplexing the Government*.

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